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Smallpox at Dixon, Ill.

[Telegram.]

CHICAGO, ILL., *December 3, 1899.*

At least 125 cases of smallpox at Dixon, Ill. Disease has prevailed for past two months and treated as chicken pox. This information received from Chief Medical Inspector Spalding, of Chicago. Just returned from Dixon. SAWTELLE, *Surgeon.*

Yellow fever in the United States as reported to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service from August 31 to December 8, 1899.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.
Florida:			
Key West	Aug. 31–Sept. 30	859	46
	Oct. 1–Oct. 31	432	20
	Nov. 1–Nov. 20	25	2
Miami	Sept. 5–Sept. 22	2	1
	Oct. 19–Oct. 31	45	2
	Nov. 1–Nov. 22	86	7
Port Tampa City	Sept. 4–Nov. 16	10	1
Louisiana:			
New Orleans	Aug. 27–Sept. 30	31	7
	Oct. 2–Oct. 31	73	9
	Nov. 3–Nov. 10	9	4
Maryland:			
Baltimore	Oct. 8	*a* 1	1
Mississippi:			
Centerville	Sept. 29	2	.....
Flora	Oct. 25	(*b*)	.....
Jackson	Sept. 10–Oct. 30	55	8
	Oct. 31–Nov. 1	6	1
Mississippi City	Sept. 1	1	1
	Sept. 14–Sept. 29	26	1

a At quarantine station. *b* Yellow fever reported.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following is an extract from the "Bulletin of the Indiana State board of health" for the quarter ended September 30, 1899:

Such legislation might well be imitated by all States which have no law requiring the collection of mortality statistics.

The last legislature made Indiana a registration State by passing a law which makes it possible to collect correct mortality statistics. It is the duty of the State health department to enforce this law under the directions of the State board of health. Over three months ago all county health officers were ordered to organize their counties by seeing to it that all incorporated cities and towns organized health boards and appointed health officers, as the law commands; also, to appoint deputies in all nonincorporated towns, and furnish a complete list of all reporting stations, with the names of their officers. This work was satisfactorily accomplished by September 10, and by the 20th all necessary blanks, with full directions, were furnished to every reporter of vital statistics in the State. The number of reporting stations is 765, and the work of collecting deaths commenced October 1. As was expected, despite the fact that directions given were plain and simple, numerous letters came to hand asking questions which had been anticipated and which were fully answered in the official instructions. All seems to be now moving smoothly, but in some counties coronial disinterments have